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WALKABOUT RALLIES TO WIN GRADE III MATRON AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, May 20, 2017) – Whitham Thoroughbreds LLC's Walkabout ran down longshot **Improv** in the final strides to post a neck victory in Saturday's \$100,000 Matron (Grade III) at Churchill Downs. Odds-on favorite **Curlin's Approval** failed to threaten and finished seventh.

Ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.** for trainer **Ian Wilkes**, Walkabout clocked 1 1/16 miles over a fast track in 1:44.06 to beat 10 other fillies and mares in dramatic come-from-behind fashion.

Belle Hill and **Improv** flashed early speed and led the field through the first quarter mile in :23.52 before **Improv** inched ahead down the backstretch after a half-mile in :47.03 and six furlongs in 1:11.57. Walkabout had one horse beat early on and trailed the leaders by as many as 15 ½ lengths after the first four furlongs.

Improv, ridden by **James Graham**, looked as if she might steal the race at odds of 28-1. She had a two-length lead at the top of the stretch but Walkabout was hitting her best stride late. Hernandez swung the 4-year-old filly eight-wide on the turn for home, overcame mild contact with rival **Tiger Moth** in mid-stretch and powered home to spoil an **Improv** surprise.

The Matron was Walkabout's first stakes win – an important milestone for any future broodmare. She banked the \$58,280 first prize and rewarded her backers with \$12, \$5.40 and \$4 as the 5-1 third betting choice. **Improv** paid \$20 and \$10.60. **Divine Elegance** was another 2 ¼ lengths back in third under **Miguel Mena** and returned \$8.80.

Crooked Stick, **Weep No More**, **Tiger Moth**, 4-5 favorite **Curlin's Approval**, **Shes a True Beauty**, **Belle Hill**, **Naylor** and **Miss Mo Kelly** completed the order of finish. **Lot's o' Lex** and **Lady Fog Horn** were scratched.

Walkabout, a homebred daughter of **Stroll out of the Broad** Brush mare **Arlucea**, notched her fourth win in 11 starts and improved her career earnings to \$219,033. Last year, she finished fifth in the **Indiana Oaks (GII)** and **Remington Park Oaks** before a third-place finish against elders in the **Falls City Handicap (GII)** at Churchill Downs.

The Matron was staged for the 80th time, but this was the first renewal at the Louisville, Ky. racetrack. The race would have gone on hiatus in 2017 if Churchill Downs Racetrack didn't step up to host the important Midwest race for fillies and mares. Previously, it was staged at its Churchill Downs Incorporated sister track, **Arlington Park** near Chicago.

SOME IN TIEME WINS 80TH RUNNING OF \$100,000 LOUISVILLE HANDICAP

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, May 20, 2017) – Some In Time Inc.'s Brazilian-bred Some in Tieme (Brz) muscled his way into the clear in mid-stretch and ran down pacesetter **Reporting Star** by three lengths to win Saturday's 80th running of the \$100,000 Louisville Handicap (Grade III) at Churchill Downs.

Some in Tieme, ridden by **Manny Cruz** and trained by **Kenny McPeck**, ran 1 ½ miles over a firm **Matt Winn Turf Course** in 2:27.25, narrowly missing **Simcard's** 2012 stakes record of 2:27.16.

Reporting Star set the pace for the grass marathon through fractions of :24.33, :50.11, 1:15 and 1:39.89 with **Some in Tieme** unhurried and relaxed under a snug hold in the early stages. **Some in Tieme** began to inch closer as the field headed into the final turn while racing along the inside hedge. At the head of the lane, the eventual winner's path was obstructed on the inside but **Cruz** made a bold move to swing six-wide and around the competition to keep his horse's momentum going forward. **Some in Tieme** drove past **Reporting Star** inside the eighth pole for the visually impressive victory.

The win was worth \$57,660 and improved **Some in Tieme's** earnings to \$414,299 with a record of 10-4-2-1.

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Some in Tieme, a 5-year-old son of Shirocco (Ger) out of the Royal Academy mare Orma Giusta, was bred in Brazil by **Haras Santa Maria de Araras**.

Some in Tieme, who carried 116 pounds, returned \$26.20, \$12.80 and \$7.40 at odds of 12-1 in the field of a dozen older horses. Reporting Star, under **Joe Rocco Jr.** and 118 pounds, paid \$8.40 and \$5.40. Defending champ Bullards Alley, ridden by **Marcelino Pedroza** at 116 pounds, was another 2 ¼ lengths back in third and paid \$10.

Gold Shield, Kaigun, Nussy, Danish Dynaformer, 5-2 favorite and 120-pound high weight **Twilight Eclipse, Street Fashion, Patrick's Day, Grey Wizard** and **Generous Kitten** completed the order of finish.

This was the fourth Louisville Handicap victory for McPeck, who also won the race with Pisces (2002), Drilling for Oil (2007) and War Dancer (2014).

MATRON QUOTES

BRIAN HERNANDEZ JR., jockey of WALKABOUT (winner): "Around the first turn, we were way back there. That's just the sort of horse she is, though. We came rolling at the end. We figured out the type of running style she has over the last couple of starts. All I have to do is stay out of her way."

IAN WILKES, trainer of WALKABOUT (winner): "It took us this last year to figure her out. She originally ran closer to the pace but she made us understand to be patient. She was always traveling well and when I saw the horses bunch together on the front end I wasn't worried at all. Brian (Hernandez Jr.) rode her great going around all of the speed horses and not getting her stopped."

"RUSTY" ARNOLD II, trainer of IMPROV (second) and WEEP NO MORE (fifth): "I think a lot of people thought I was running her (Improv) as a rabbit but I wasn't. She had really done well since her last race. The other filly (Weep No More) ran all right. She hasn't been out in eight months and she needed to get feet back under her. She did late, but then got tired. We just wanted to get her back going. It's tough to find a race for a horse like that. Now we've got (Improv) back to herself and she'll be in the Fleur De Lis, hopefully."

JAMES GRAHAM, jockey on IMPROV (second): "She ran a huge race. If they'd left me alone and let me send her a little bit, she might have been good enough to hang on today. But today wasn't her day."

LOUISVILLE HANDICAP QUOTES

MANNY CRUZ, jockey of SOME IN TIEME (BRZ) (winner): "I really like this horse. Kenny (McPeck) had me work him on Sunday and he trained very well. Once we got clear of the traffic, he cruised home."

ALAN SHELL, assistant trainer of SOME IN TIEME (BRZ) (winner): "After he came over in Brazil, he was running on the west coast and the owners were looking for a change of scenery. It was a very patient ride by Manny (Cruz). He was able to come to Keeneland to get on this horse last Sunday. We're really happy things worked out."

JOE ROCCO JR., jockey on REPORTING STAR (second): "He ran big. He got out there on the lead and he was able to slow it down there pretty good. He had quite a bit to finish with, but Kenny's horse was a bit too much for him today."

MARCELINO PEDROZA JR., jockey on defending winner BULLARDS ALLEY (third): "It was a pretty good race. It felt like at the half-mile pole that he was going to back-up and finish last, but he kept on going. He's that kind of horse – he likes to go all the way, farther and farther. He ran a good race."

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